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Wilberta William  
ED 7201 – Research I  
Professor O’Connor-Petruso  
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Wiki Assignment # 3

Statement of Problem:

Our public schools are failing our students, particularly minority students from low-income backgrounds. As prospective educators, in an urban environment, the educational inequality our students are facing is our greatest challenge. We are prepared and dedicated to working towards closing the achievement gap between low-income students and high-income students and preparing all students to succeed in college. Before we can do this we need to fully understand why are our inner-city schools failing our children, particularly low-income minority students? Are our teaching styles failing to meet the needs of our students? Do students perform better in a teacher-centered instructional environment or student-centered instructional environment?

Research Hypothesis:

Over a period of 10 weeks, Ms. St. Pierre and Ms. William will plan and deliver a series of social studies lessons to a first grade class in two different settings (charter school and public school). Half of the lessons will be teacher-centered instruction and the other half of the lessons will be student-centered instruction. The two teachers will assess their students in the form of test and other written work to ascertain which instructional method yielded the best academic performances. The two teachers will also do a comparative study to determine if their findings were similar.